

# Macorix language

**Macorix** (/ˈməsoʊriʃ/, also rendered **Maçorís** and **Mazorij**) was the language of the northern coast of what is today the Dominican Republic. Spanish accounts only refer to three languages on the island: Taino, Macorix, and neighboring Ciguayo. The Macorix people appear to have been semi-sedentary and their presence seems to have predated the agricultural Taino who came to occupy much of the island. For the early European writers, they shared similarities with the nearby Ciguayos.<sup>[1]</sup> Their language appears to have been moribund at the time of the Spanish Conquest, and within a century it was extinct.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Divisions

**Upper Macoris** was spoken on the north-central coast of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Magua from Puerto Plata to Nagua, and inland to San Francisco de Macorís and further. It was also distributed on the southeast coast of Hispaniola around San Pedro de Macorís.<sup>[3]</sup>

**Lower Macoris** was spoken in the northwestern part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Magua from Monte Cristi to Puerto Plata, and from the coast inland to the area of Santiago de los Caballeros.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Lexicon

Little is known of Macorix apart from it being a distinct language from Taino and neighboring Ciguayo. A negative form, *baeza* [ba 'esa], is the only element of the language that is directly attested. *Baeza* could be Arawakan (though not Taino or Iñeri), analyzable as *ba-ésa* 'no-thing' = 'nothing'. (Cf. Manao *ma-esa* 'no, not', Paresis *ma-isa* 'not'. The negative prefix is *ba-* in Amarakaeri which, even if it is related to the Arawakan languages, is not close enough to be relevant here.)

## Toponyms

	Macorix
	Mazorij
Native to	Dominican Republic, possibly neighboring Haiti
Region	two populations: northern coast, bordering the Peninsula of Samaná
Ethnicity	Macorix
Extinct	16th century
Language family	unclassified (Waroid <span> </span> ?; one of the pre-Arawakan languages of the Greater Antilles)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	<i>None</i>

Precolonian languages of the Antilles.

Macorix

Ciboney Taíno, Classic Taíno, and Iñeri were Arawakan, Karina and Yao were Cariban. Guanahatabey, Ciguayo, and Macorix are unclassified.

<sup>[1]</sup> Their language appears to have been moribund at the time of the Spanish Conquest, and within a century it was extinct.

<sup>[2]</sup> Their language appears to have been moribund at the time of the Spanish Conquest, and within a century it was extinct.

<sup>[3]</sup> Lower Macoris was spoken in the northwestern part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Magua from Monte Cristi to Puerto Plata, and from the coast inland to the area of Santiago de los Caballeros.

There are also some non-Taino toponyms from the area that Granberry & Vescelius (2004) suggest may be Waroid:

Possible Macorix toponyms<sup>[4]</sup>

Name	Warao parallel	Warao meaning
Baho (river)	<i>baho-ro</i>	'shroud, dense (forest)'
Bahoruco (region)	<i>baho-ro-eku</i>	'within the forest'
Mana (river)	<i>mana</i>	'two, double'
Haina (river)	<i>ha-ina</i>	'many nets'
Saona (island)	<i>sa-ona</i>	'full of bats'

(Cf. a similar list at Guanahatabey language.)

## See also

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- Pre-Arawakan languages of the Greater Antilles

## References

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1. García Bidó, Rafael (2010). *Voces de bohío Vocabulario de la cultura taína* (<http://es.calameo.com/read/000345214d171d7bd2cee>). Santo Domingo, DR: Archivo General de la Nación. pp. 7, 25, 32. ISBN 978-9945-020-95-3.
  2. Wilson, Samuel M. (1999). *Cultural Pluralism and the Emergence of Complex Society in the Greater Antilles* ([http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~swilson/wilson\\_iaca99.html](http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~swilson/wilson_iaca99.html)). XVIII International Congress for Caribbean Archaeology. St. George's, Grenada: University of Texas, Department of Anthropology. Retrieved January 31, 2016.
  3. Granberry, Julian; Vescelius, Gary (2004). *Languages of the Pre-Columbian Antilles*. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press. ISBN 0-8173-5123-X.
  4. Granberry & Vescelius (2004:76, Table 6)
- Granberry, Julian, & Gary Vescelius (2004) *Languages of the Pre-Columbian Antilles*, University Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, ISBN 0-8173-5123-X

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